



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

March 13, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3077-01 [OLAW Case 4I]

Ms. Robyn Diaz
Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
262 Danny Thomas Place, MS 400
Memphis, TN 38105-2794

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your March 12, 2018 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, following up on an initial report on February 2, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that two mice died after being exposed to improperly diluted disinfectant used on the transfer forceps. The agent caused severe skin irritation and the problem was due to human error.

The corrective action consisted of revising the disinfectant standard operating procedure to include use of an indicator strip to test dilution. The animal care staff was trained on diluting disinfectants and using the indicator strip.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy.

Sincerely,

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Axel V. Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair

March 12, 2018

Robyn Diaz
*Chief Legal Officer
Senior Vice President
Office of Legal Services*

1 901.595.2288 | 901.595.5944
robyn.diaz@stjude.org

Axel Wolff, D.V.M.
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare/NIH
RKL1, Suite 360 MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Dr.
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Subject: Report of Noncompliance/Animal Welfare Assurance A3077-01

Dear Dr. Wolff:

Please accept this written report, which documents an incident of noncompliance with Public Health Service (PHS) policy governing the care and use of laboratory animals. This final report is a follow-up to the preliminary report provided on February 2, 2018 by Dr. Stacey Schultz-Cherry, the Chair of our Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC). A description of the incident and the corrective actions taken to prevent the recurrence of a similar incident of noncompliance are provided below.

On December 28, 2017, an Animal Resources Center (ARC) Husbandry Services Supervisor (HS Supervisor) reported two dead mice in separate microisolation cages. The supervisor reported this finding to one of the ARC staff veterinarians, who subsequently reported this to the Chair of the ACUC.

ARC staff involved in the incident met on January 4, 2018 to review the factors that contributed to the death of the animals, and their findings were reported to the ACUC. The mice that died had extensive dermal irritation from contact with a disinfectant that was not properly diluted. Forceps used to transfer mice from the dirty cage to the clean cage are placed in the disinfectant to prevent cross-contamination during the cage change procedure. The chemical irritation of the skin occurred because the residual improperly diluted disinfectant on the forceps came in contact with the skin. A subcommittee of the ACUC then met on February 2, 2018. The subcommittee interviewed the ARC Director regarding their findings. The subcommittee concluded that this incident was a mishap, caused by human error.

The subcommittee identified the following corrective actions to prevent the recurrence of this animal welfare incident:

- The ARC standard operating procedure (SOP) for the preparation, use and storage of disinfectants used in the ARC will be revised to include the use of an indicator strip to check the dilution.

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Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [B]

A3077-4I

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 7:59 AM
To: 'Schultz-Cherry, Stacey'
Subject: RE: Report

Thank you for this report. We will start a new case file.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

From: Schultz-Cherry, Stacey [mailto:Stacey.Schultz-Cherry@STJUDE.ORG]
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 4:39 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) @STJUDE.ORG>; Rahija, Richard J <Richard.Rahija@STJUDE.ORG>
Subject: Report

Dear OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight,
I am writing to let you know that the St Jude Children's Research Hospital ACUC investigated an animal welfare concern that occurred in late December 2017 that was deemed reportable. The report is forthcoming. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.
Thank you in advance for your attention.

Best,

Stacey Schultz-Cherry, PhD
Member, Department of Infectious Diseases
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Memphis, TN 38105
Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)



St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital
Graduate School of
Biomedical Sciences

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